



MEMORIAL DAY PACKET

New GI Bill Overview

In 2009, Congress enacted the new GI Bill for the 21st Century (the “Post-9/11 GI Bill”) to restore the promise of a full, four-year college education for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, making them part of the economic recovery. More than 500,000 veterans have already received these new college benefits. Over 875,000 students have applied to become eligible and more can continue to request certification at the VA website (<https://www.gibill.va.gov/>).

Since then Congress has extended the benefits to all children of fallen service members since 9-11 (with no minimum required military service) and last year made it easier for veterans to use New GI Bill education benefits to pay for tuition at public and private universities, while covering veterans seeking training that will place them directly in the work force.

WHO CAN APPLY?

You are eligible for benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill if you have completed at least 90 days of active duty service on or after September 11, 2001, and were honorably discharged or if you were honorably discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. The benefits are correlated on a sliding scale to years served. To receive full benefits, you must have served on active duty for three years. This chart shows the percentage of costs covered, based on the length of your service:

Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:	Percentage of Maximum Benefit
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60
At least 6 months, but less than 12 months	50
At least 90 days, but less than 6 months	40

WHAT DOES THE POST-9/11 GI BILL PAY FOR?

- Tuition and fees paid directly to the school of up to the maximum undergraduate in-state tuition and fees at a public institution in your state;

- Pays for a monthly housing allowance prorated to a student's rate of attendance based on the location of the school;
- Allows for reimbursement of licensure or certification tests and national exams such as SAT, ACT, etc.;
- An annual books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 to be paid at the end of the month; and
- Correspondence training, vocational and technical schools, apprenticeships and on the job training. (Effective October 1, 2011)

HOW LONG DO THE BENEFITS LAST?

You generally have 15 years following release from active duty to use the benefits earned under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THESE BENEFITS?

You can apply for benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill online, [using the Veterans Online Application System \(VONAPP\)](#). Go to this site: [<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>]. Select Form 22-1990. You can instead [download Form 22-1990 here](#) [[http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/22-1990\(5-09\).pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/22-1990(5-09).pdf)], and mail it in.

CAN I TRANSFER POST-9/11 GI BILL BENEFITS TO MY SPOUSE OR CHILDREN?

If you were a member of the Armed Forces on August 1, 2009, the Department of Defense (DOD) is offering you the opportunity to transfer benefits to your spouse or dependent children. For most service members, benefits may be transferred with a minimum of six years of service and the agreement to serve at least four additional years. Spouses may use benefits after six years of service and children may use benefits after 10 years of service and before reaching 26 years of age. For more information, go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov/post-911/post-911-gi-bill-summary/transfer-of-benefits.html>

- All children of service members who have died on active duty since September 11, 2001, are eligible for the full education benefit, regardless of the length of military service of their parent in the service. Surviving military children have 15 years to use their benefits, beginning on their 18th birthdays.
- For more information, visit the VA website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)

WILL THE BENEFITS COVER AN EDUCATION AT A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE, OR AT AN OUT-OF-STATE SCHOOL?

Yes, in part. Because the Post-9/11 GI Bill generally only covers tuition and fees up to the maximum of a public institution in your state, the bill includes the **Yellow Ribbon Program** to help you to afford the higher cost of a private education or an out-of-state school. The Yellow Ribbon Program allows schools to enter into a voluntary agreement with VA to fund tuition costs above the highest in-state tuition rate. VA will match each additional dollar that a school contributes toward an eligible student's tuition costs, up to 50 percent of the difference between the tuition and fees covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the total cost of tuition and fees. These payments are capped at \$17,500, as of August 1, 2011. You must be eligible to receive the maximum benefit rate (having served three years on active duty, or those discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days). [Learn more about the Yellow Ribbon Program>>](#) [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Yellow_ribbon.htm].

For further information call 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a Veterans Benefits Counselor. You can also visit the VA's Frequently Asked Questions page>> [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Post-911.htm].